

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

G. H. POTTER, M.O.H.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL



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Councillor J. T. SIMM, J.P. (Chairman).

Councillor A. GUEST, J.P., C.C. (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors D. Bennett, P. Bradley, J. Gaskell, J.P., A. A. Hesketh,
T. Murton, W. Nixon, T. Parkinson, J. D. Peel, S. Preston,
J. A. Simpkin.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J. T. SIMM, J.P. (Chairman), and all members of the
Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector : Mr. F. BUTTERFIELD, A.R.I.C.S., Cert.S.I.B.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL.

August, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District of Orrell for the year 1949.

Comment is required on the following matters of the report. The number of births again decreased, the total for 1949 being 130 as against 164 in 1948, producing an Annual Birth Rate of 14.2 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease of 4.4 over the preceding year. The Birth Rate for England and Wales is 16.7.

The Infant Mortality Rate rose from 48 per 1,000 live births in 1948 to 54 for the year under review, due to the decrease in the Birth Rate.

The actual number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age during 1949 was 7, compared with 8 in 1948.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 32.

The General Death Rate is also higher at 15.3 per 1,000 estimated population than the preceding year which was 12.1.

There was a decrease in the Maternal Mortality Rate from 6.9 in 1948 to nil for 1949.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department and especially to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire to express to the members of the Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617
Population (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1949)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,180

Number of Inhabited Houses :—

(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682
(b) End of 1949 according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,744
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£35,791
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£139

Orrell is a residential district in an agricultural area with middle and working class houses built largely along the main roads and backed by farm lands.

Coal mining, engineering and the cotton industry afford the chief employment. They are situated mainly outside the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	..	128	..	56
		Illegitimate	..	..	2	..	1
		Total ..	..	..	130	..	57
Still Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	..	3	..	—
		Illegitimate	..	..	—	..	—
		Total ..	..	..	3	..	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	{	Legitimate ..	..	..	7	..	3
		Illegitimate	..	..	—	..	—
		Total ..	..	..	7	..	3
Total No. of Deaths	..	..	..	..	116	..	47

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	..	..	14.2
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	..	..	15.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	..	..	23.0
No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth :—			
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	..	..	Nil.
From other Maternal Causes	..	..	Nil.
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	..	..	Nil.
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to other causes	..	..	Nil.
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	54
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	..	..	55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	..	..	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	..	..	Nil.

TABLE I.

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

	<i>Live Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Crude Death Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.</i>	<i>Cancer Death Rate.</i>
Mean of 5 years				
1944-48	19.2	12.7	0.26	1.83
Year 1948	18.6	12.1	Nil	1.13
Year 1949	14.2	12.6	0.44	1.74
Increase or decrease in 1949 :—				
On 5 years average				
1944-48	— 5.0	— 0.1	+ 0.18	— 0.09
On previous year .	— 4.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.44	+ 0.61

	<i>Maternal Per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	<i>Mortality Rate. Per 1,000 (Total Live and Still Births).</i>	<i>Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
Mean of 5 years			
1944-48	2.45	2.37	55.0
Year 1948	6.09	6.02	48.0
Year 1949	Nil	Nil	54.0
Increase or decrease in 1949 :—			
On 5 years average			
1944-48	— 2.45	— 2.37	— 1.0
On previous year .	— 6.09	— 6.02	+ 6.0

In the following table are shown the chief causes of death and number of deaths from each cause in 1949 as compared with 1948 :—

TABLE II.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	
	<i>1948.</i>	<i>1949.</i>
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	— ..	4
Influenza	2 ..	2
Measles	1 ..	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	— ..	1
Cancer	10 ..	16
Diabetes	2 ..	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ..	15 ..	21
Heart Disease	21 ..	20
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2 ..	1
Bronchitis	11 ..	7
Pneumonia	2 ..	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	— ..	3
Appendicitis	1 ..	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2 ..	1
Nephritis	4 ..	1
Premature Birth	3 ..	—
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries	3 ..	6
Suicide	— ..	1
Other Violent Causes	5 ..	1
Road Traffic Accidents	— ..	3
All other causes	23 ..	22
	—	—
	107	116
	—	—

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Monsal Hospital, Manchester.

Ambulance Services.—Infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Wigan Corporation under an agency agreement with the Lancashire County Council.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948.—No action was taken under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The water supply is mainly derived from an old mine shaft at Dean Wood. The supply has been constant and of good quality as shown by both chemical and bacteriological examinations. The water is chlorinated before being supplied direct to the houses by public mains. Additional plant is in the course of construction for filtration and aeration of the water, together with a new storage reservoir of 120,000 gallons capacity.

All the houses in the district have a piped supply of water, and the mains are flushed regularly to remove "ochre" deposits.

Approximately 400 yards of 3-inch and 4-inch mains have been laid to the new Moor Road Housing Site.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Sewage is treated by Wigan County Borough at their sewage disposal works at Hoscarr.

There are approximately 50 houses in the Abbey Lakes area not drained to a public sewer due to being below the level of the present sewerage system.

Approximately 650 yards of new sewer have been laid to the Moor Road Housing Site.

Sanitary Accommodation.—There are 38 privy middens with 63 closets serving 71 houses in the district. No conversions were carried out during the year.

No. of Privy Middens	..	..	..	..	..	38
„ Closets attached to Privy Middens	..	..	..	..	..	63
„ Pail Closets	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ Freshwater Closets	..	..	..	..	..	2,761
„ Waste Water Closets	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ Dry Ashpits	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	2,767
„ Houses on Water Carriage System	..	..	..	..	..	2,684

Public Cleansing.—Three men are engaged full time on Street Cleansing under the supervision of the Surveyor.

One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Refuse Collection Vehicle and six men are engaged on refuse collection and disposal which is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. It is becoming difficult to maintain even a fortnightly collection of refuse, particularly during the winter months.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping along Captains Clough on the southern boundary of the district. More supervision is required on the tip to prevent unauthorised persons sorting over and carting away articles from the tip, and to control the tip generally.

Summary of Dustbins, Ashpits and Privies Emptied, and Loads Removed during the Year.

No. of Ashpits Emptied	..	..	..	..	376
„ Dustbins Emptied	..	..	..	..	74,290
Loads of Refuse Removed	..	..	..	..	1,257

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

No. of Premises Visited	..	..	..	..	411
„ Nuisances Discovered	..	..	..	..	342
„ Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	280
„ Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	114
„ Statutory Notices Served	..	..	..	..	18
„ Legal Proceedings	..	..	..	..	1

Schools.—The six schools in the district are all supplied with a piped supply of water from the public supply and five are provided with separate water closets with separate provision for flushing. At one of the schools, however, automatic flushing of the closets still exists.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district nor any premises in which rag flock is manufactured or sold.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses in the district and no houses let in lodgings.

Factories.—48 inspections were made of the factories in the area. The condition of the factories were generally satisfactory. One outworker's premises was visited and found satisfactory.

Shops and Offices.—No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936. Conditions have been generally satisfactory.

Tents, Vans, Sheds.—There are no camping sites in the district and no tents, vans or sheds stationed in the district.

Atmospheric Pollution.—No action was taken during the year.

Swimming Bath and Pools.—There are none in the district.

4.—HOUSING.

Statistics.—38 Permanent traditional type houses were completed and tenanted at Pinewood Crescent, Rivers Street and Ash Grove, and 108 houses were under construction at the end of the year. A further 38 houses and 12 bungalows are to be commenced on the Moor Road Housing Site.

More than 50 per cent. of the houses in the district have been constructed since 1925, many of the older houses are sub-standard and if slum clearance was in operation would certainly be scheduled for demolition. As slum clearance cannot be resumed while the housing shortage is still acute only minor repairs to these houses are called for. The chief defects of the houses are dampness, absence of suitable sanitary accommodation and general disrepair.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the local authority	38 Permanent.
(2) By other local authorities	Nil.
(3) By other bodies or persons	Nil.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1 (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	110
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	250
2 (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil.
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
3 No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	110

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ..	60
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.

2. Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :—

(a) By owners Nil.

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 18

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 7

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 8

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit Nil.

(4) Housing Act, 1936, Part IV., Overcrowding :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 2

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 4

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 22

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil.

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. *Milk Supply*.—At 30th September, 1949, there were 17 dairy farms on the register and 30 inspections of these premises had been carried out. On the 1st October, 1949, the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, came into operation and the registration of dairy farms became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

At the end of 1949, 17 licences had been granted to dealers authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold by them from premises in the district.

2. *Meat*.—There is no slaughter-house in the district.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever.—20 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during 1949, as against 78 during 1948. None of the cases were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria.—It is pleasing to note that for the second year in succession there were no cases of diphtheria notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During the year, 172 pre-school children, and 49 school children completed the full course of primary immunisation. In addition 169 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

Pneumonia.—There were four cases of Pneumonia notified during 1949.

Measles.—54 cases were notified during the year, as against 193 during 1948.

Whooping Cough.—There was an increase in the number of cases notified, 36 cases compared with five during the preceding year.

Erysipelas.—There was only one case of Erysipelas notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.—It is pleasing to note that there was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

In connection with the Clean Food Campaign, circulars giving advice as to the handling of food were distributed to bakehouses and food shops.

Disinfection.—27 houses were disinfected during 1949 by the use of sulphur.

If the necessity for steam disinfection arises the apparatus at Billinge Hospital may be utilised.

Cancer.—16 deaths were certified as due to cancer during the year as compared with 10 during 1948.

Radium treatment is available to Orrell residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary.

Tuberculosis.—This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council and patients attend at the County Dispensary which has recently been moved from Mesnes Park Terrace to Millgate, Wigan.

Nine new cases were notified during 1949, six being cases of Pulmonary and three of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were four deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is satisfactory, and no action was necessary under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal of patients to hospital.

The following table shows the new cases of the disease and the deaths in age groups.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age Periods.</i>		<i>New Cases.</i>						<i>Deaths.</i>					
		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>				<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>			
<i>Years.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
0	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
1	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
2	..	—	—	..	1	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
5	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
10	..	—	—	..	1	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
15	..	1	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
20	..	—	1	..	—	1	..	—	—	..	—	—	
25	..	—	1	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
35	..	2	—	..	—	—	..	1	—	..	—	—	
45	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	1	..	—	—	
55	..	1	—	..	—	—	..	2	—	..	—	—	
65	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
75 and upwards	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	..	—	—	
Totals	..	4	2	..	2	1	..	3	1	..	—	—	
		6		3				4					

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1949.

12

Notifiable Diseases.	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods Years.								Total deaths.	Total cases removed to hospital from the district.	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district.
		— 0	— 1	— 3	— 5	— 10	— 15	— 25	— 45				65 and over.
	(a)									(b)	(c)	(d)
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	20	—	1	3	9	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding Rubella)	54	6	26	15	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	36	5	10	11	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia												
Primary and Influenzal ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	115	11	37	29	23	7	6	1	—	1	5	—

